

Commonly Asked Questions (cont.)



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carry out this work, the range is generally between \$1,500 to \$2,500 depending on the material and labor charges for each connection. Franklin County will provide a list of certified sewer tapers. Only contractors on this list can perform this work in Franklin County. Permits to begin this work will not be issued until all capacity fees, permit fees and meter charges are paid in full.

Q: What if I cannot afford to pay for the connection costs previously mentioned?

A: The Franklin County Department of Community & Economic Development (CED) will be available with information concerning applications for financial assistance. There are income requirements and age restrictions, which must be verified in order to become eligible for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This program is administered by CED on behalf the Franklin County Commissioners.

Q: How long will construction last and when will connections begin?

A: The start date for construction for each project will vary and the length of construction will also vary with the size and complexity of each system. The goal for this first public meeting is to give all interested parties a general idea of our plan for completion of each of the projects in the township. The planning and qualification of owners for financial assistance will begin immediately after the completion of the engineering phase of each project. This will allow us to view the scope and size of the projects and identify each of the homeowners involved.

Q: Will any roads be closed during construction? If so, for how long?

A: The roads may be closed periodically to thru traffic, but will remain open to local traffic during construction.

Q: Once we are connected into the sewer system, will we then begin receiving a sewer bill? Where will our bills come from?

A: Yes. Those businesses and residences now receiving a water-only bill from Columbus will begin receiving a water and sewer bill from the City of Columbus. Those businesses and residences currently on well water will begin receiving a sewer-only bill from the City of Columbus when connected into the sewer system. All bills from Columbus, whether sewer-only or water-and-sewer will be charged at their current rate.

Franklin County Sanitary Engineers

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the Franklin
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of Commissioners

April 2003



Newsletter to Franklin Township Residents

Water Quality Partnership Sewer Improvement Project

Inside this Issue you will find information on:

- Construction
- Hook-ups
- Financial assistance for Franklin County residents

For projects in the following areas:

Mon-E-Back
Brown Road West
Brown Road East
Eureka Park
Briggsdale
Hague Avenue
San Margherita
Stimmel Road

In 2003, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners budgeted more than \$10 million to improve the safety of more than 991 homeowners in Franklin County by way of 13 sewer improvement projects. You are one of those homeowners.

The sewer improvement project, which will begin in your neighborhood in just a few months, will extend a sewer line to your area and enable you to abate your current septic or aeration system and connect to a central sewer system.

Your neighborhood was selected for this project due to the large volume of complaints received by the Franklin County Board of Health related to failing on-lot septic and leaching systems. When complete, the sewer improvement project will enable 13 neighborhoods to connect to a central sewer system operated by the city of Columbus, without annexation.

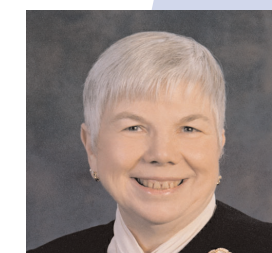
On Wednesday, April 23, several organizations including this board of commissioners, the Franklin County Sanitary Engineering Department, Community & Economic Development Department and Board of Health will hold a public meeting to discuss how this project will affect you and those around you. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Heights High School Auditorium, located at 1001 Demorest Rd. During the public meeting, we will outline the scope of the project, its overall cost, and the fees that homeowners will be responsible for.

Please read the following information carefully prior to the public meeting. If you have any additional questions concerning this project and how it may affect you or your property, please feel free to call Franklin County Sanitary Engineering at 462-3940 and ask for Director Shockley. We look forward to you working with you on this project in the coming months.

Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Dewey R. Stokes



Arlene Shoemaker



Mary Jo Kilroy

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Why do we need this sewer?

A: Many of the existing on-site sewage treatment systems (septic and aeration) have failed and cannot be repaired or replaced in-kind. The Franklin County Board of Health has documentation showing that leaching systems are failing due to poor soil conditions. In most cases, moving and replacing the existing septic systems cannot be accomplished because of small lot sizes. Discharging aeration systems are a continuing source of pollution in ditches and streams in all areas. There is growing concern that groundwater, currently a source of drinking water for many residents, is in danger of becoming contaminated because of failed leaching systems.

Q: How will this sewer project benefit me as a property owner?

A: In all of the affected areas, the average lot size is below the allowable building size for new homes with on-lot sewage systems. Franklin County Health Department is enforcing a building moratorium for this area because of the absence of central sewer. The lots are smaller than the recommended size for septic and leach fields and no new discharging aeration systems are being approved. This means that for the property owner who wishes to build, no new homes can be built in the project area. Additionally, when a property owner wishes to sell a property it must have a working sanitary system. Many of the existing systems have or will fail, thus making the transfer of property very difficult. A few benefits of this project are as follows:

- Sanitary health risk is eliminated.
- Property values will be improved.
- The ability to sell property in the future will be improved.
- New home construction can be planned.

Q: Will this project damage or affect my property?

A: No. Generally speaking, the sewers are planned to be constructed within the existing right-of-way. If it is necessary to have construction activity outside the right-of-way, the individual property owner(s) will be contacted.

Q: Do I have to connect to the sewer?

A: Yes. All individual on-lot sewage systems must be abandoned and all households and businesses must connect into the new sewer system.

Q: What is being done now in preparation for our connection into the sewer system?

A: We are in the very early stages of preliminary site work and survey of the areas affected by this program. Preliminary engineering has been completed and the presentation to the Township Trustees and residents will provide you with a timeframe for completion of several key elements of each project. In the near future, we will be providing you with a schedule for completion of the engineering phase and the beginning of construction of each collection system.

We will schedule additional community meetings before construction begins. For now, the plans call for all of this work to be done in established easements or in the right-of-way along the road. This work does not involve the connection of the sewer to individual homes. When this phase is complete, each residence will have a service lateral available for the final connection. The location of this service lateral will be either in front or to the rear of each property so as to minimize the work involved when making the final connection.

Q: How much will it cost to connect to the sewer?

A: There are several components of costs involved with connection to the sewer system. The Franklin County Commissioners Water Quality Partnership Fund, for the most part, is paying the cost of constructing the sewer system. The projected cost of all eight sewer improvements in Franklin Township is \$7,019,500. Although legally permissible under the Ohio Revised Code, the goal and intent of this project is not to assess the property owner for the cost of this construction. **Other costs associated with the construction of the sewer system that must be paid by the property owner are:**

1) Sewer system capacity fees. Sewer system capacity fees are a one-time charge that is paid by the homeowner to the utility for the added burden put on the processing system owned by the utility. The current system capacity fee for the average size, single family home is \$1,375. This fee must be paid whether you currently have well water or City of Columbus water. Capacity fees are based on the size of the service line leading into the home or commercial property and they increase as the size of the line increases. The \$1,375 amount is the fee for a 5/8" or 3/4" service line, which is the most common size for homes in these areas. Commercial properties usually have larger size service lines and the system capacity fees for these properties will be higher.

2) Permit inspection charge. There is one-time \$85 inspection fee for each connection into the sewer system. This charge covers the cost of inspection and the preparation of a sewer permit, which becomes a permanent record for the property.

3) Water meter charge: Each residence and commercial property which connects into the sewer system must have a water meter and a remote outside reader installed on their current water system, whether the property is presently served by well water or City of Columbus water. The cost of this water meter is \$135. This is a one-time charge. This cost is also based on a 5/8" or 3/4" water meter and matches the current water service size serving the property. Larger services will require a larger meter and an additional cost. Properties currently receiving Columbus water through a water meter attached to that system will not have to purchase a new meter. Installation of these meters must be done by a certified plumber and is the responsibility of the individual homeowner or business owner. The typical cost to complete this installation is \$150 and the work must be inspected and sealed by the City of Columbus. Additional details concerning the installation and inspection of the water meter will be made available.

4) Sewer taper charge: In order to abandon the existing on-lot sewage system and connect the house or business into the new sewer system, the owner must individually contract with a certified sewer taper. This contract is an agreement between the owner of the property and the contractor to properly abandon the current system and properly install lines into the new sewer system. While costs vary to
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